



Bad Religion

August 15, 2021

Here Is Our King • Matthew 23 • Message 25

PRAY • HYPOCRISY? TEXT A FRIEND • PHARISEES: THE MESSIAH WILL COME AND TAKE OUR SIDE

Bad Religion — Matthew 23

NOT ALL RELIGION IS BAD • RELIGION IS THE PRACTICE THAT FLOWS FROM A SPIRITUAL WORLDVIEW.

JAMES 1:27 • MATTHEW 22:37-40 • WHEN IT'S BAD, IT'S REALLY BAD • MT 23:1-4

Three Marks of a Bad Religious Leader

- They do not **PRACTICE** what they **PREACH**.
- They put **BURDENS** on **OTHERS** but offer no assistance.
- They live for **EARTHLY REWARDS**.

5-12 • USING "PASTOR" • 2 PETER 3:15 • AS A JOB TITLE, FINE, BUT NOT AS A SEPARATOR
DON'T GIVE ANYONE THAT MUCH AUTHORITY • DON'T PURSUE EARTHLY RECOGNITION • HUMILITY

Seven Marks of a Bad Religion

- Religion that **CONTROLS OTHERS**.
13 • ILL: JEALOUS OF THE MORMONS
- Religion that uses **RESOURCES** for **EVIL**.
15 • ILL: NEXT WEEK MISSIONARIES SERVING MISSIONARIES SERVING PEOPLE, GOOD!
- Religion that plays the **LOOPHOLE** game.
16-22 • ILL: FIRST TIME I SAID THE "S" WORD • LOOPHOLES TO BE MEAN / DECEITFUL = EVIL
- Religion that **REVERSES PRIORITIES**.
23-24 • ILL: CLEAN MY ROOM ⇒ JUST THE DRAWER
- Religion that goes from the **OUTSIDE IN**.
25-26 • ILL: SEE, THAT'S WHY I DID THE DRAWERS FIRST! / LEGALISM
- Religion that lets you **LIE** to **OTHERS**.
27-28 • ILL: CORNERSTONE FUND EMBEZZLEMENT
- Religion that lets you **LIE** to **YOURSELF**.
29-32 • WHY WOULD SOMEONE KILL A PROPHET? • CONFIRMATION BIAS
ILL: GÖDEL, EINSTEIN, RELIGIOUS JUSTIFICATIONS? • ILL: YOUNG EARTH ⇒ ANTI-SCIENCE
I HAVE GIVEN UP ON THE RELIGION THAT TELLS ME I KNOW MORE THAN EXPERTS.

Results of a Bad Religion

33-36

- Practitioners of bad religion go to **HELL**.
- They repeat the **EVIL** and join the **GUILT** of previous generations.
37-39 • ALL OF US ARE JERUSALEM

Take It Home

God will give us **CHANCE** after **CHANCE**.
But **NOT FOREVER**.



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